

so that the areas of representation in the State of Nebraska is to the degree possible the best for the people of the State of Nebraska in each one of those legislative districts. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, and members, I rise in support of the committee amendment and the proposal for state legislative redistricting. Worked with Senator Bernard-Stevens and Senator Withem, Senator Schimek and other senators on the part of the bill that affected Lincoln-Lancaster County. Obviously, Lincoln-Lancaster County had hoped for more of an inclusive situation with the seventh new seat that would be, in fact, urban. As Senator Bernard-Stevens said, we're creating a new primarily rural area, a rural district in Saunders, Lancaster and Douglas and Sarpy Counties. The hope had been for Lincoln-Lancaster County to gain another seat that would be basically within the City of Lincoln. Our growth is somewhere over 20,000 new additional people and that's about two-thirds of the way toward a new seat and with some adjustments there was a plan I submitted that would have allowed us to have a new district within Lincoln with an expanded area outside of Lancaster County for Senator Warner but that proposal is not the way we're going at this point. That's a disappointment on my part. I had hoped we could move in that direction. There are other disappointments. Obviously, many of you feel that your district did not get what you had hoped for or maybe that your district itself is moving a little farther than you would like to out of the certain area it's in now. And that's, of course, something to be unhappy about and to be expected. But none of us are completely happy. I guess what I'm trying to say is that Lincoln and Lancaster County would have liked to have had a slightly different configuration but I believe that I, myself, and my colleagues are satisfied that this is a reasonable proposal. It fits together and ultimately it's going to be made to work, I think, for the better of the state. We don't get all we want but it's...it's a plan that is livable and one that we can work with. So I feel that Senator Bernard-Stevens and the Government Committee did good work in trying to put...fashion this proposal in a rather hasty fashion. And, with that, I would very much support the committee amendments and hope you would as well.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. The speaking order